



Grant County Health Department

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For Immediate Release-Measles in Grant County

The Grant County Health Department received a report of a confirmed measles case in Grant County. The health department has been contacting individuals that may have been exposed and will continue enhanced surveillance through at least mid-March of 2014. Therefore, individuals and health care providers are being asked to have heightened awareness as to the possibility of additional measles cases our area. Since measles is highly infectious, health care providers should inform their local health department immediately of any suspected cases of measles and precautions to prevent the spread of illness should begin even before a case is confirmed by a laboratory.

Measles is caused by a virus and illness from measles normally consists of a generalized rash lasting 4-7 days and fever, with a cough, or nasal symptoms, and/or red watery eyes. Measles illness can be severe and can result in several different complications. However, severe illness occurs more often in infants and adults than in children. In rare instances (mainly developing countries), blindness and death can result. Symptoms generally start 7 to 18 days after exposure. Proper immunization prevents illness nearly 99% of the time. Grant County Health Department encourages individuals to be sure their immunizations are up to date especially among children and health care workers.

If someone feels they may have measles it is best to call your provider in advance so that exposures to others can be limited or prevented. For further information about measles or immunizations, contact the Grant County Health Department at (608) 723-6416 or visit www.co.grant.wi.gov.

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